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Administration

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
**DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138

Carson City, Nevada 89706

March 29, 2001

Mr. Douglas Bonham  
Supervisory Environmental Engineer  
Naval Air Station, Fallon  
Public Works Department  
Environmental Division-Code 187JD  
4755 Pasture Road  
Fallon, NV 89496

Dear Mr. Bonham:

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) has received your letter dated March 16, 2001 expressing regret for this office not being notified of the February 2001 field activities and the Sampling and Analysis Plan detection/reporting limits issue. NDEP understands from your letter how this oversight came about; however, this problem has existed in the IRP program at NAS Fallon for a considerable length of time.

NDEP's concern of not being provided timely information continues and is an issue again. On March 7, 2001, NDEP was contacted telephonically with a follow up e-mail by NAS Fallon concerning the Navy's recent award of a contract to Battelle exceeding 2 million dollars. NDEP understands that the contract includes the construction and operation of a pilot remediation system to enhance the bioremediation of the groundwater plumes at Sites 1, 14, and 16. NDEP has not been provided documentation presenting the results of the Battelle's bioremediation study and, until March 7, 2001, was unaware of the Navy's decision to proceed with this pilot system for Sites 1, 14, and 16.

Since NDEP has minimal documentation of the bioremediation studies conducted by Battelle at NAS Fallon, we are unable to comment on the Navy proceeding with a \$2,000,000.00 pilot bioremediation remediation system for Sites 1, 14, and 16 and its ability to address state concerns

As stated in the Partnering Agreement, the main purpose of this agreement is to Afoster a commitment toward communication and trust between NDEP and the Navy.@ The Navy's handling of the Battelle study and approval of a pilot remediation system without providing NDEP an opportunity to review, comment, and obtain resolution on any issues is unacceptable. NDEP requests that in the future, the Navy provide copies of interim reports/information to NDEP for review in a timely manner.

NDEP further needs to be provided an explanation of how the Navy has proceeded this far without NDEP's involvement and would like to understand how the Navy proposes to resolve this issue. NDEP views this as an issue that will be elevated on the next occurrence. Please provide this information by April 23, 2001.

If you have any questions, or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at (775) 687-4670, extension 3032.

Sincerely,

R. Eric Noack, P.G., C.E.M.  
DOD IRP/DOE UGTA Supervisor  
Bureau of Federal Facilities

REN/KKB/KRS/js

cc:

CDR Faulk, NAS Fallon

John Dirickson, NAS Fallon

Renee Wallis, EFA Northwest, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

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